

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NASA-04 USIA-15 EB-11 CIAE-00

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R 290047Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2514

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS JAKARTA 6500

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, ID

SUBJ: ERTS SYMPOSIUM

REF: JAKARTA 6380

1. I SHOULD LIKE TO SUPPLEMENT REFERENCED USIS MESSAGE WITH PERSONAL COMMENT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTICIPANTS BOECKEL AND SHORT OF NASA IN ERTS SEMINAR HERE LAST WEEK. I ATTENDED OPENING SESSION AND LUNCH GIVEN BY MINISTER SUMITRO.

2. I WAS STRUCK BY POTENTIAL OF THIS PROGRAM FOR OUR INTERESTS IN INDONESIA. THE GOI IS EMBARKING UPON ITS SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN. ONE CHIEF OBJECTIVE OF PLAN IS TO CATALOG NATURAL RESOURCES OF THIS VAST COUNTRY. ERTS HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE PLANNERS TO GOI LEADERSHIP AS ONE OF PRIMARY VEHICLES FOR THIS. I AM FIRMLY CONVINCED LONG-TERM POLITICAL/ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF U.S. WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED BY ERTS PROGRAM HERE. NORMAL SENSITIVITIES OF THIS TYPE OF RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY ARE MUTED HERE. THE ATMOSPHERE IS ONE OF CONFIDENCE IN THIS APPROACH TO SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY AND ITS APPLICATION TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS.

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3. THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR OUR DIRECT COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN THE SALE OF HARDWARE ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAM. HOWEVER, PROSPECTS FOR ERTS IN REGION, AS INDICATED BY RECEPTION SEMINAR RECEIVED IN BANGKOK AND MALAYSIA, INDICATE A BROADER MARKET FOR U.S. HARDWARE AS WELL AS SOFTWARE.

4. OUR BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS WOULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM CLOSE CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP ERTS WILL GIVE U.S. IN PLANNING AND RATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDONESIA'S RESOURCE POTENTIALS. EVEN IN THIS EARLY STAGE OF INDONESIA'S SURVEY OF ITS RESOURCE POTENTIALS, SOME \$6-8 BILLION IN RESOURCE-BASED PROJECTS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY. ERTS WILL ADD CONSIDERABLY TO SHELF OF RESOURCE PROJECTS FOR WHICH THERE WILL BE MAJOR COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES.

5. IMPRESSED AS I AM BY ERTS POSSIBILITIES HERE, I AM DISTURBED TO LEARN THAT FUTURE OF PROGRAM MAY BE IN JEOPARDY. UNDERSTANDING THAT NASA ROLE IS PRIMARILY ONE OF RESEARCH AND THAT OMB POLICY SUGGESTS ERTS NOW IN OPERATIONAL PHASE, I WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT NASA RESPONSIBILITIES NOT BE TERMINATED UNTIL THERE IS CLEAR ALTERNATE ACCEPTABLE FINANCIALLY AND INSTITUTIONALLY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDONESIA. THIS IS VALUABLE SCIENTIFIC TOOL WHICH GENERATES NUMEROUS OTHER ADVANTAGES FOR US AS WELL. WE SHOULD BEND EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN ITS MOMENTUM.
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